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RICK LARSEN
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Congress of the United States
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RANKING MEMBER
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TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

June 9, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I request your full and fair consideration of the City of Blaine's application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program for its Bell Road-BNSF Railway Grade Separation Project.

The City's project will replace the existing Bell Road (State Route 548)-BNSF at-grade crossing with a new roadway and railway overpass. Interstate 5 ramps with Peace Portal Drive will eventually be relocated to meet the new intersection. The new overpass will enhance safety and reliable access between Blaine and surrounding areas of unincorporated Whatcom County for all road users, including pedestrians and bicyclists. The project will reduce traffic congestion when trains are passing through this location, including slow-moving trains entering the U.S. and going through customs inspections at the U.S.-Canada border.

The City of Blaine would use RAISE grant funds to begin work on the preliminary engineering and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance phases of the project, in addition to right-of-way acquisition required for replacement of the at-grade intersection with a grade-separated facility.

For these reasons, I request your full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, of Blaine's RAISE grant application. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Rick Larsen
U.S. Representative
Washington State, Second District